

Frontier Post

TUESDAY JUNE 23, 1992 ZILHAJ 21, 1412

LAHORE

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Karachi calm: 67 so far arrested **17 MQM torture cells unearthed**

The people hail revolt against Altaf: raids only
on authentic information about terrorists

KARACHI, June 22, (AFP): Pakistani security forces have discovered 17 torture cells allegedly run by the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) in Karachi, officials said on Monday.

The discoveries were made after troops moved into two districts on Friday following violence between rival MQM Groups that left nine people dead and dozens injured.

The torture cells were used to punish MQM dissidents and opponents, the officials said, adding that about 60 people had been arrested since the internecine fighting erupted.

A dissident group opposed to MQM leader Altaf Hussain, who currently is in London, had raided the party's offices on Friday, triggering the latest violence.

The MQM, which represents, Urdu-speakers whose families migrated to Pakistan from India at independence in 1947, is a domi-

nant political force in major urban centres. It is also a coalition partner in both the federal and Sindh provincial governments.

Authorities have relaxed a curfew in disturbed districts of Karachi where troops and paramilitary rangers searched for illegal weapons and put MQM headquarters under "protected custody."

MQM dissidents, making an apparent bid to snatch control of the party, were reportedly making contact with their rivals to settle their dispute.

"Very soon we will set up an Ad Hoc Committee to manage day to day affairs of the party and to hold elections to decide who commands majority support," a leader of the MQM dissidents, Dedar Iqbal, said on Monday.

Iqbal and others were expelled from the MQM by Hussain in February 1991. They have challenged the action and have con-

tinued operating from outside Sindh province.

Iqbal said MQM Chairman Aziz Tariq had given assurances that the group would be rehabilitated, but no confirmation from the party was available.

Hussain, founding father of the MQM, has alleged that Tariq and his colleagues were being "threatened and coerced" into supporting the dissidents as part of a campaign to crush the MQM.

Sources said the authorities had tightened security in Karachi and other cities in Sindh, where the army was deployed in May for a six-month crackdown on crime and lawlessness.

Altaf Siddiqui reports: The situation in Karachi remained calm and no untoward incident was reported from any part of the city while the police with the help of rangers arrested a number of persons and recovered arms from their possession.

The total number of those arrested 67 during the last two days has now reached 67. The arrests were made from Landhi, Korangi, Shah Faisal Colony, Liaquatabad and Lines area.

According to a military spokesman, 21 Kalashnikovs, 13 seven MM rifles, 12 Kalashnikov type rifles, four shot-guns, two stenguns, two carbines, four double barrel guns ten 22 bore guns, 59 magazines, 19,242 rounds 16 stolen cars and 18 motorcycles were recovered. Two Kalashnikovs one light machine gun, one seven MM rifle and

Press clipping from "The Frontier Post"

Dated: July 8, 1992.

Terrorists all of them

Ahmad Bashir

Altaf Hussain and his MQM compatriots are not the only terrorists we have in Pakistan. All those who patronised and protected them are terrorists, Ghulam Ishaq Khan above all.

Mian Nawaz Sharif was also not unaware of what went on in Karachi. But to save his coalition government, he looked the other way.

He is a terrorist too. Benazir tried to stop the MQM. It was demanded of her to withdraw all cases registered against the terrorists of the MQM. When she did not oblige her government was dismissed. She had a film made of the torture halls of the MQM. Copies were sent to the president, the Army Chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg Mirza, and some journalists of Islamabad were shown the video. She wanted to release it for the general public.

But the showing of the film banned either by Ghulam Ishaq Khan or the general whose sympathies for the MQM were never a secret. He later sent his platoon to the Hyderabad Pucca Qila operation. The police wanted to recover arms from the MQM stores.

The MQM gangsters called out their women and children and tried to block the road. Behind them walked the terrorists who fired at the police under cover of women and children. The police fired back and a large number of women and children got hit.

At this stage the army intervened without the invitation of the civil government. Did not General Mirza Aslam Beg protect the terrorists and the recovery of arms? Mian Nawaz Sharif as chief minister of the Punjab gave the Hyderabad MQM a gift of Rs. five crore. This amount was spent on the purchase of arms and ammunition. Did Nawaz Sharif not act as a terrorist?

The ISI, the Intelligence Bureau, the Sindh CIA, the special Police and all special agencies knew everything. But because the PPP lurked in the wings on account of its mass base, and Ms. Benazir Bhutto threatened to come back, the IJI sold their soul to the devil. Never has anybody given so much for so little. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, Jam Sadiq Ali, Irfan Marwat, and General Mirza Aslam Beg (possibly), all were terrorists.

According to a press report, hundreds of people who dared to disagree with the pir of Azizabad were kidnapped and tortured and killed. The KMC issued death certificates. Bundles of blank forms

of death certificates were recovered from torture centres. The forms were filled by the killers themselves. Some of the tortured were let off with permanent disabilities to let the people know MQM was above the law. People only whispered about the torture cells of the MQM, but the dissidents Aamir and Afaq had been screaming about their existence for more than a year. Nobody took any notice of their cries. The coalition was to be preserved at all costs. The PPP had to be kept pinned down. That was the legacy of the great dictator who had hanged an innocent Bhutto.

Let no one forget that the dissidents have been part of the same MQM. Some of them were reportedly in charge of torture cells. They fell out with Altaf Hussain apparently, because, the pir had, under the advice of General Mirza Aslam Beg changed the nomenclature of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement to the Muthahida Qaumi Movement. That meant quite another thing.

Aamir and Afaq resented it not only because of the change of form but also because Altaf would not share power with them. They had been secretaries of the MQM. Now they had to take orders from the Pir of Azizabad, who they believed, was their creation. They decided to break away. This did not suit Altaf Hussain who tried to persuade them to remain in the 'Movement'.

According to a press report, at one point things got so out of control that Afaq shot Altaf in the foot. He had to be taken to the Abbassi Shahid Hospital. Life then became difficult for the dissidents and they had to take refuge in USA.

While bed-ridden in hospital, Altaf received a telephone call from Aamir Khan from America. Aamir told Altaf that he had persecuted Altaf's closest associates and could have him terminated any time. As a proof, he told Altaf to look under his pillow where he would find a note signed by none other than Aamir Khan. He was told that he would find another such note in his bathroom. The notes were found, and Altaf Hussain had three of his bodyguards killed. The executions had been arranged by Imran Farooq and Salim Shahzad, according to an insider.

On return from US, Aamir Khan, Afaq and some of their compatriots took refuge in Lahore. Reportedly, a police team was sent by Jam Sadiq Ali to Lahore for their arrest, as demanded by Altaf Hussain. The dissidents, had, in their possession, incriminating evidence against Altaf Hussain on video tapes. The Punjab government decided to save the evidence and the Sindh

police team had to return empty handed.

How was the MQM created? The guilty conscience of the dictator Ziaul Haq took a turn for the worst following the hanging of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and he decided to crush the PPP as a challenger. He had power, but he had failed. The PPP was the only threat to his system. According to one report, General Jehandad Khan proposed the creation of an ethnic organisation in Sindh to maul the PPP in the urban centres and the encouragement of the separatist forces of Jeay Sindh to deal with the PPP in the interior.

The idea was to reduce it to the level of a Sindh party fighting its battle of survival in the parameters of Bhutto's home province. In 1986, Syed Ghulam Ali Shah was Sindh's chief minister, Mr. Altaf Hussain who was then in prison, was released under his orders and given the assignment of forming an ethnic-based party. The assignment was accompanied by two cheques of Rs. 50 lakh each for expenses. The cheques had been issued by a seth who owned cement factories and beverage plants.

Altaf Hussain was guided by special agencies. He formed the MQM in the name of Mohajir rights. Politicians had been talking about a four nationality Pakistani federation. The Mohajirs who did not want to be absorbed in Sindh came out with the slogan of a fifth nationality. In Altaf Hussain the Mohajirs found a new Messiah. Hitherto they had supported religious parties without any gain. Now they had a separate identity.

Ziaul Haq backed the MQM personally. He thought that if he could destroy the PPP in Sindh the rest would take care of itself. He also went to see the ailing G.M. Syed, leader of Sindh separatism, and certified him as a patriot.

Mr. Altaf Hussain because of most favourable circumstances, began to walk tall. He had his own programme. He wanted to expel all non-Mohajirs and all Sindhis from the urban centres of Sindh and make an exclusive Mohajir province. His programme had great emotional appeal. The leaderless Mohajir community began to flock around him. His word became the law. He became a charismatic leader.

The Mohajirs belong to the middle class. They have lands but no Mohajir farm labour. They have medium industry but no Mohajir work force. Most of them had houses of their own. Most of them are educated. They are in middle trading and in white-collar jobs. Within their community, there are no social contradictions. The Nazi Party of Germany was middle class. So were Mussolini's

fascists. Nearer home, the Awami League was a middle class party. All of them were terrorists in their political approach. The MQM, being a thoroughbred middle class party, could not be an exception. It began to develop as a terrorist party, with the added advantage that it had funds and patronage. It divided Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpur Khas, Sukkur, and other cities which had a minimum showing of the Mohajirs, into sectors and sub-sectors, with mini dictators in charge. It began to collect 'jugga tax' from shops, private residences, and mill owners.

According to one report its collection from the Lines Area for the month of Ramazan amounted to Rs. 66 lakh. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. That is what happened to the MQM. Its workers and leaders began to rape innocent girls, lift cars, and rob the people. Everything was done in the open. No police station would register an FIR under the orders of Mr. Irfan Marwat, advisor on law and order. The party became a monstrous monolith. Dissidents had nowhere to go. All opposition was crushed by force. Ziaul Haq had manufactured killers.

Altaf Hussain also reportedly got in touch with the Indian intelligence agency, RAW. The interior secretary S.K. Mehmood prepared detailed notes for the prime minister and the cabinet in which had been included details of MQM-RAW relations. Some documentary evidence had also been attached. The notes were also submitted to the president. But no action was taken over report. Mr. Altaf Hussain had been working for the creation of Jinnahpur, an autonomous Mohajir province as a preliminary to the establishment of an independent homeland. He hoped that the US would help. She was kindly disposed towards the MQM. Mr. Altaf Hussain could allegedly get any number of visas from the American embassy. He had a map prepared for his new country. I wrote about it a couple of years ago. It included, in addition to Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpur Khas, Nawabshah, the whole of Tharparker, and all the coastal areas of Pakistan frontiers with India were to be open.

With all the coastal areas included in Jinnahpur, the rest of Pakistan was to be a land-locked country. Following my writing, Mr. Altaf Hussain asked me to see him at Azizabad. I happened to be in Karachi then. The time was about 11.30 pm. I was sick that night and apologetic. I thus lost my only chance of meeting the Pir of Azizabad. I was not too sick to move. I was being lazy, and I will

Press clipping from "Dawn"
Dated: July 6, 1992.

Iron gates around Altaf's house demolished

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, July 5: The law enforcement agencies pulled down about half a dozen iron gates erected around Quaid Avenue, the residence of MQM leader Altaf Husain on Sunday with the help of bulldozers.

Heavy contingents of Army, Rangers and the police had been deployed in Azizabad near Altaf Husain's residence since early morning to avert any retaliation from MQM activists.

At 10 am the law enforcement agencies, assisted by the local administration brought in heavy bulldozers and started demolishing the gates, one by one.

The residents of Azizabad remained indoors when the operation was being carried out. However, some old women hurled abuses when the bulldozers arrived at the main Quaid Avenue.

The Commissioner of Karachi, a few days ago, had directed the citizens to voluntarily demolish the iron gates in their respective areas.

Demo (Visit www.pdfsplitmerger.com)

Press clipping from "The Frontier Post"
Dated: July 28, 1992.

MQM torture, killings

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Taju, Shahab, Shariq, Khan Mohammad, Amin, Farced, Younis, Waheed Nadeem Nevla, Arshad, Sikandar, Dara and Alamgir and Lal were also present to receive the orders. The suspect with some companions was given the area from Jet lines petrol pump to Gora Qabristan. Some workers were given automatic weapons like K. Kove, 7mm etc. At 3.00 hours boys of MQM started to block the roads and obstructed the ways.

At 3.00 hours on 6th February 1990 a truck full of chickens came and was stopped by the suspect and his other companions. The chickens were picked by general public and the truck was set on fire by the suspect while Mohammad Ali threw the petrol on the truck. The driver ran away from the scene. Approximately ½ hours after burning the truck a car appeared on road it was also stopped and was set on fire after taking out the passengers. At about 9.30 hours the suspect along with Abdul Hamid, Majid and Nadir went to Jacob lines on two motor-cycles and stopped a bus of Qari coach opposite the Capri Cinema, the driver was taken out and the bus was set on fire by the suspect and his companions. The suspect along with other accomplices fired in the air in their area the complete day. On the next day the suspect along with his other companions went to jat line petrol pump and a bus of RTC was set on fire by them and passengers were taken out.

In May 90, while Sindhi; Muhajir riots took place in Hyderabad the MQM took action against Sindhis, as reaction in Karachi and the suspect took part in these riots actively. The suspect along with Taqi, Majeed, Hameed, Nadir, Nadim Dara, Asghar Kaka, Wahid, Shera and Hanif Bada remained active in following sabotage.

A. set on fire a general store of a Sindh on society B. set on fire a closed house of a Sindhi in Abisenya Line the suspect also worked in unit office: coordination office Tunishia Line and was deputed to client he arms and ammunition and to distribute the same. In June 1990 a meeting was held opposite Rabta office in a house, where it was decided that Dr. Soomro, whose clinic is near Mazar Quaid-e-Azam, should be killed because he is Sindhi. The

above meeting was attended by Nadir, suspect, Majid, Naeem and Ayaz they were entrusted the above task. They snatched a white Charade car but due to misunderstanding with each other they came back and on the way back they fired in air. After 3/4 days of above meeting another meeting was attended by the suspect in unit office where it was informed that orders had been received from high command to kill the Sindhi doctors. Who live in gor flats, next day Mehmood, Nadir, Majeed and Naeem got arms from the suspect and murdered the Sindhi doctor in his clinic. In this crime the suspect did not participate.

In June 1990 zonal incharge of zone B. Sohail Akbar came at torture cell of Jat Line, he came in Suzuki hi-roof cream colour. The suspect was performing duty at the cell along with Mohammad Qader, Sohail Akbar said that he had brought a boy Junaid from Gulshan-e-Iqbal. He asked me to take him out from the vehicle because the cell was a safe place. While suspect was taking out the boy Junaid from Suzuki he felt that Junaid had expired so he informed Sohail Akbar, who took back the dead body of above boy, Junaid was a member of PSF.

In May/June 1990 suspect along with other workers of MQM fired on the mobile of rangers who which came in the area of Jat lines to arrest the terrorists. In May 1990 a meeting was held in Pib Colony where MQM chief Altaf Hussain addressed the meeting and he asked to raise hands who were ready to sacrifice for Mohajir cause, the suspect raised his hand in the above meeting.

After the murder of Murad preedy in April 1991, persons of anti-group came forward openly and started indiscriminate firing in the lines area. The suspect played major role in the above event. On the directions received from the Markaz sector incharge Shafique was replaced and Javid Langra was appointed new sector incharge of the area. After being appointed sector incharge Javed Langra established a torture cell opposite the street of Jamia Masjid and also started his coordination office there. The suspect was nominated as incharge of torture cell and arms and ammunition. In May 1991 the suspect

along with Majeed, Sakindar Mota and Nadir brought four boys of anti group forcibly on the direction of unit incharge Abdul Majid. The four boys Chand, Waheed, Nadeem and Munna were taken to the torture cell of Javed Langra where they were tortured up to 1½ week. They were tortured by a team consisting of Fahim Farooqi commando, Nora, Asghar Taka, Tasleem, Guloo, Nasir, Amar Zaidi and Shahid Qureshi. Some times the suspect also joined them. After their release one boy Nadeem was brought forcibly but he was released on the say same day on the recommendation of School Teacher Qudwai, who was known to Javed Langra.

In June 1991 Hamid and Majid Dhobi brought a boy of anti group in torture cell, from Tuneshia line and he was kept in the cell for a period of two weeks and was tortured in different ways. The suspect made him naked and thrust an iron strips in to his buttock due to which his buttock was injured. Subsequently Faiz Mohammad Faizo fucked him.

In August 1991 suspect along with Asam armed with pistol snatched a red Toyota Corolla car from Jamshed road and handed over it to unit incharge Majid, who said that car is not in good condition so, they left the car in Sindhi Muslim society and on next day suspect along with Naveed while both were armed snatched a Toyota Hilux of steel mill which was parked opposite Capri Cinema M.A. Jinnah road and its driver was standing along with vehicle.

The same was handed over to unit incharge. Once the suspect brought a person namely Jamil from Aysenia line and tortured him in the cell and left him. On 13 September 1991 the suspect along with other companions opened fire in the air to celebrate birthday of Samad's son. In April 1992 the suspect along with other accomplices opened fire in air in the area behind Jacob line to create Panic in the locality. In May 1992 a boy of anti group Tahir Pasoori brought in the locality,

Press clipping from "The Frontier Post"
Dated: August 13, 1992.

More MQM militants held, arms recovered

F.P. Bureau Report

HYDERABAD, Aug. 12: The law-enforcing agencies while continuing the operation clean-up against the outlaws and the terrorists, arrested about one dozen alleged criminals and recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from their possession, last night.

The law-enforcing agencies on the information of Haji Nawab, the arrested MQM councillor, recovered huge quantity of arms from his office. The arms were hidden in a bag. The recovered arms were one 7mm rifle on mauser, two revolvers and one pistol. A case, according to reports, has been registered against the said councillor in this regard at Sakhi Pir police station.

Meanwhile, the law-enforcing agencies arrested one Mohammad Aqil in Tando Tayab locality and recovered a revolver from his possession, he is said to be MQM militant. On the other hand Qasimabad police arrested a person, named Ayub Deshk, from Daata Chowk and reportedly recovered a pistol from his possession.

Similarly Rashid Khanzada was rounded up by the law-enforcers from Tando Allahyar Town near Hyderabad. Azam s/o Ayub was also arrested near Memon Hospi-

tal, Hyderabad and a pistol was recovered from his possession. The law-enforcers raided a place near Pakistani Chowk, Phuleli and arrested one person named Aslam Parvez Qureshi. Faqeer Mohammad Qureshi was arrested from Jurial Shah Colony. He is said to be a militant of the MQM and was involved in the case of a murder of a Sindhi at Islamabad Chowk in the ethnic violence of 1991. A case in this regard was registered against him at Phuleli police station. One person Fazil was rounded up from Faqeer Ka Pir locality and one kalashnikov was recovered from his possession. Meanwhile Anwar was arrested from Hali road locality and Nadeem from Pucca Qilla locality of Hyderabad.

A team of a law-enforcing agency, raided a house in Lati-fabad and arrested Saeed and recovered a repeater gun from his possession. He is said to be involved in terrorist activities. According to the other reports, another person named Nizamuddin was also arrested in Liaquat Colony and a kalashnikov was recovered from his possession. Majority of those arrested were MQM militants.

Meanwhile the law-enforcing agencies also recovered a G.3 rifle from village Dokri in Larkana district and a 7mm rifle from Niang Sharif in Dadu district.

The Frontier Post

TUESDAY JUNE 23, 1992 ZILHAJ 21, 1412

VOL-IV NO 224 REGD NO: L-8600

LAHORE

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Harrowing tales of electric therapy, knife-cuts & bone drilling

From M. Ilyas Khan

KARACHI, June 22: On the elaborately paved and widened street outside the supposedly largest torture cell unearthed in Karachi, a resident of the area pulled this correspondent by the sleeve and asked: "does Muzaffar Shah, Nawaz Sharif or Ghulam Ishaq deserve to rule this country?"

And he was not very wide off the mark. Some of the worst horrors were committed by the MQM in the very thick of Tunisia Lines, about four furlong from Irfan Marwat's dreaded CIA, about one furlong from the Brigade police station, and a mere one hundred

yards from Pakistan Army's EME Workshop 602. Yet it continued to exist for 14 months until the dissidents stormed and evacuated it last Friday.

During this time, several ministers of the government of Jam Sadiq Ali and Muzaffar Hussain Shah frequented the place and were offered full protocol. Besides, important MPAs and MNAs of MQM, a partner of both the provincial and central governments, also paid regular visits for the purposes of inspection.

Admits a vast cluster of pigeon hole houses of the poor of the area, a 25-yard alley was cleared by the MQM's local unit command on 29 April, 1991 to create the privacy they needed to deal

with "the traitors". Three houses were taken over, while residents of the rest of the houses in the street were told to punch their outlets in the back alleys and close their front gates. The inmates of these houses are privy to the hue and cry of victims which continued to rise from the torture cell for over one and a half year, but they knew better than to blabber in wider circles.

"I lived in the house next to the torture cell till about two months ago. I finally decided to shift from here because my wife became hysterical. She used to hear the cries of torture victims and could not bear it. Several times she would burst into tears and implore me to do something about it. In the

end, her condition deteriorated. On the mere suggestion of moaning sound from across the wall, she would pass into a hysterical fit. I had to leave lest the boys found out about her condition". This was narrated by a navy official who had come to watch the torture cell.

Another resident of the area, Ayub Ali, said although he lived only about 40 yards from the place, it was the first time in 15 months that he stepped into this street. "Both sides of the street were blocked by the unit boys. Even if somebody was found staring into the street, they would catch him", he said.

About the last three houses on the southern end of the street,

Ayub Ali said that since their backwalls adjoined other houses, they were compelled to use their front gates, and they were allowed to do it too. But in 14 months they did not receive a single guest, because that they were not allowed to do.

In the back-street, a lady said: "the torture cell is on the far side of the main street. With the fans on and all that, we never heard the cries or whatever. They told us never to walk onto the front street and we never did. Otherwise they did not have much to do with us". When asked if she felt deprived because of this order, the lady said, "when the freedom goes, one naturally feels deprived".

Inside the torture cell, there

was a chamber for physical torture of the initial kind, equipped with ropes and nooses and the paraphernalia for mechanical and electric therapy. At the far end a door led into a narrow and short corridor full of humidity and stench. It opened into a courtyard which had been converted into a gymnasium where victims were administered more severe treatment. Faiz Mohammed alias Faizu, a local dissident leader, said those with broken arm bones were made to lift weights here.

Irfan Ali, son of Farman Ali, a fragile skinny boy of 18, said he was kept in the cell for one month. He claimed that during this period he was given nothing to eat except liquid. He showed this corre-

spondent various marks on his body including a 4-inch slit on right wrist inflicted by a knife, and blackened marks of electric shock. He was treated to electric therapy in a separate chamber located in the house which was vacated by the aforesaid navy official.

But this is nothing compared to what happened to Nadim, another lean 18-year-old of the area. He displayed a 3-inch mark on his left hip which he alleged was caused by the rod of a drill machine used on him by his tormentors. He was kept in the cell for only 16 days because the wound went bad and began to rot with worms.

Shehzad, another victim, said he was subjected to inhuman torture which cannot be stated. While

admitting this, he began to tremble and lost his voice, then broke down and cried. All these boys were picked up because of their relations with Kamran and Murad, two dissidents of the area who were both killed. The purpose of torture was to extricate information about the dissidents.

Faizu said that many others were killed by the unit boys, and then either buried in the nearby societies graveyard or "sold to Edhi Trust for Rs. 5,000 apiece". He said in some cases they would call the family of the dead to see the body before burial, while in other cases they even did not bother with this formality.

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WEDNESDAY JUNE 24, 1992 ZILHAJ 22, 1412

LAHORE

NATIONAL DAILY FROM LAHORE

'Altaf group had 6,000 torture cells in Sindh'

F.P. Bureau Report

KOTRI, June 23: The leaders of the MQM (Haqeeqi), have claimed that have completely rejected the Altaf group.

Addressing a press conference near Amir complex, Kotri, the dissident leader, Shaheen Qureshi, said that Altaf group had created the modern trends of subjecting the Mohajir youths to torture. They termed Altaf Hussain, as a "Vampire", and said that he has been rejected by the people of Kotri. They said that Altaf is the traitor of Mohajir people. They blamed top leadership of MQM for corruption, bribery and embezzlement of the funds, which were forcibly collected from the poor of the Mohajir community.

The dissident leaders fully sup-

ported the group's raid on the office of MQM in Kotri and said that their group was not against the military or any other law enforcing agency. They further said that today's action of the dissident group of take over the offices of MQM, was carried out after the approval of MQM (Haqeeqi) leaders: Amir Khan, Afaq Ahmed and Badar Iqbal. They said that they fully support these leaders of the MQM Haqeeqi.

The leaders of the dissident faction during this press conference alleged that the local leadership of Altaf group in Kotri used to collect funds from the poor Mohajir employees of railway and other departments. They blamed that rupees seven lakhs, collected from the hides sales, had been spent on buying of luxuries items for the Altaf group members. They announced that they will disclose the details about the properties of this group very soon. They also disclosed that Altaf group had set up six thousand torture cells in the Sindh province.

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It may be mentioned that similar cases have already been registered against the leaders of MQM (H).

However, when the newspaper contacted Landhi police station, on Tuesday, to verify the reports and to get the details of FIR

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LAHORE

4 more torture cells unearthed

Arms recovered: many terrorists held: Nawaz calls off Karachi visit

F.P. Bureau Report

KARACHI, June 26: The Law-enforcing agencies and the MQM (H) activists have uncovered four more torture chambers allegedly run by the MQM, military sources said here on Friday.

The sources said that two torture cells were discovered under the staircase of MQM head office in Al-Karam by the Army. They said the chambers were still giving smell of blood.

Seven 7mm rifles, five pistols, five mausers and 3,000 rounds of ammunition were also recovered from the building, sources further said. A large number of "terrorists" were also held, they added.

Army and the Rangers took control of Al-Karam earlier this week. There were reports of the existence of torture cells there but the Press was not informed about it after the takeover. It was not clear whether these cells were found earlier. When contacted for confirmation, the ISPR officials could not be traced.

The dissident MQM (H) ac-

tivists also claimed having found torture cells in New Karachi and the Orangi town localities here on Friday. They said the torture chamber in Orangi was discovered last night after the Haqeeqi group activists moved into the area yesterday.

On the other hand, Mansoor Chacha, a leader of the MQM (H), has claimed that the Army officials have set free 20 of their activists after finding them innocent.

He said the two federal ministers Chaudhry Nisar and Majid Malik, who are currently in Karachi, have established no contact with the MQM (H) so far. He said the further target of his party was to make entry in the Sindh interior cities of Mirpur Khas, Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Sukkur and Tando Allahyar, etc. He said delegations from these cities had been calling on the MQM (H) leadership in Karachi during the last few days.

According to another report, two MQM (H) MNAs and an

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Torture Cells

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MPA, Waseem Ahmad, Rehan Umer Farooqi and Abid Saharif, were returning here tonight from Islamabad after failing to meet the President and the Prime Minister in Islamabad.

The two MNAs proceeded to the federal capital on Wednesday in a bid to meet the two highest state officials. According to sources, the MQM (H) leaders were given the impression that the Prime Minister would have a meeting with them in Karachi during his Friday visit. The visit, however, has been called off at the eleventh hour.

The hell that was!

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, June 21: Hundreds of people, including women and children, on Sunday thronged the torture cell of Jutland Lines unearthed by the Army and Rangers on late Friday night.

The cell was opened on Sunday by the Rangers for public viewing.

People formed long queues outside the cell to just have a glance of this infamous torture cell of which till now had operated secretly.

Some youngsters who were tortured in the cell a few months back were also present there, recapturing their painful memories of the past. Some others were describing the horrifying torture tactics to the visitors.

The cell, which was thoroughly searched by members of the law enforcement agencies before its opening to the public, still had sufficient proof of what was being described as hell by those who had been tortured in it.

From official death certificates of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation to deadly torture equipment and from empty boxes of life-saving drugs and syringes to big empty water drums nearly any thing which could chill one's spine — was available in the room.

Record of the ZMC East, allotment letters of KDA Lines Area Development Scheme and other organisation record of MQM were

also found.

Some of the women whose brothers and sons were tortured to death in the cell were crying. The loud screams of women emotionally charged the entire atmosphere, with the family men consoling them.

"The loud screams and cries from the cell were a routine matter but we were even afraid even to walk outside the cell," remarked 28-year-old Saghir of Lines Area. "Everybody, including the area police, knew about the presence of the cell," he remarked, but nobody was willing to take any action.

One Shabbir, alias Shabban, who remained in the cell for 15 days, burst into tears when newsmen reached there. "My only crime was that I used to take meals to hospitals for some dissidents. They don't give you enough water and food. I don't know how I came alive out of the cell," he remarked.

The entry of MQM dissidents in the Lines Area and its subsequent takeover have totally altered the political scenario of the locality. Small children were removing nearly all the signs of the past including the pictures of MQM leaders. At one place some children were trying to break the strong marble plaque carrying the names of MQM men who died in Karachi riots.

Frontier Post

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24, 1992 ZILHAJ 22, 1412

LAHORE

NATIONAL DAILY FROM

DAWN

Vol. XLVI No. 169 Karachi, Zilhaj 22, 1412 Wednesday, June 24, 1992 20 PAGES Rs. 4.50

✓ Saturday 'Rape cells' unearthed in hospitals Dawn 27-6-92

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, June 26: The law enforcement agencies unearthed some "rape cells" during a raid on Bhitai and Tarachand hospitals in Hyderabad on Friday.

The raids were conducted on the complaints of some women who were forcefully brought to these cells because of political differences and were allegedly gang-raped by MQM activists.

The cells were set up in the staff quarters of the hospitals and were allegedly run by some MQM activists. An X-Ray technician who was allegedly supervising the cells has been arrested.

An army interrogation team is recording the statements of women who were dishonoured in these cells.

Meanwhile, the law enforcement agencies raided the MQM Labour Wing in Al-Karam Square and unearthed two more torture cells set up in the ground floor offices.

Seven 7 mm rifles, five 30 bore pistols, two 22 bore pistols and 324 rounds were also seized by the agencies. Some MQM activists are believed to have been rounded up from Al-Karam Square.

Five more MQM activists, including one Yousuf, wanted in several cases of kidnapping, were arrested by law enforcement agencies in Landhi on Friday.

'Chhaoni' tells MQM character

Frontier Post
F.P. Bureau Report

KARACHI, June 24: If anyone thinks that the MQM was nothing beyond a pure and simple political party, he should pay a visit to Mohajir Chhaoni (Mohajir Cantonment). Local MQM command got this 55-room hostel of the Swedish Institute in Landhi vacated in 1986, to house its 'armed force' there.

The rooms, arranged in three rows and punctuated with small chambers which might have been kitchens once, seem to have been deserted for a quite some time perhaps four months -- although military officials and local dissidents claimed the MQM boys left the place about 15 days ago.

The two southern rows seem to have not been used for years as cobwebs blocked the entrance to various rooms, but the northern row shows some signs of recent activity.

More prominent among these were the freshly dug up floors of a large number of rooms. Residents

of the area, who were showing the newsmen around, said the "occupying forces" used to hide their arms in these pits.

Between the two northern rows is a huge courtyard which once might have served as a playground for the boarders, but had since been converted into a field of torture for "traitors", the residents said. All along the northern row, pillars of steel were erected on which rested steel girders from which hung four or five ropes, their lower ends turning round into nooses for hanging.

"They would hang the victims on one of these ropes, and would then target-shoot them from afar", said Syed Ashraf Ali, one of the many alleged victims of torture at the cantonment. The claim is rather a bold one, because the ground is visible from the terraces of a couple of houses at a little distance.

On the far side of the northern row there is a wide clearing which

Continued on page 2

Khail

Continued from page 1

Shehzad and Safdar Baqri.

The hell broke loose in Landhi in June last year when the dissidents led by Afaq and Amir tried to capture Mohajir Khail from the MQM. According to residents of the area, four to five thousand MQM men, armed to teeth and riding Pakistan Steel buses, threw siege around the area with the help of city police. After the dissidents had been vacated, the year-long persecution of the area people began.

A large number of women had come to Mohajir Khail on Wednesday to narrate to the visiting newsmen their tales of horror let loose by the sector barons during this period.

The women, some having lost their sons, others their husbands, with their choking narrations not only convinced the newsmen of their veracity, they also drew up quiet a few tears. There was Habiba Khatoon, the aged mother of Mansurul Haq, who was killed after being picked up from Kala Board in Malir, and there was the mother of Mohammad Arshad, who a year ago was told by their son to take children to another house because the rangers were coming into search their house. "I went away", she said, "but later came to know that it was not the rangers, but the dacoits of MQM who broke into our house. We found the body of my son on 15 July. It was kept in an Edhi centre morgue. For fear of being victimised, I went to see the body of my son in secret."

Then there was Hajira, wife of Mohammad Yousuf, today she is a widow, having five minor children to support. Another young widow, Tahira, said her husband, Haider, was kidnapped and the

boys asked for Rs. 150,000 as ransom. The money was paid. On day, Haider came into the mohallah but did not come home. Some boys asked him to accompany them to an ammunition store in Saddar, Al-Haris, later he was shot to death in that store.

Haider's mother, Amina said the boys who took her son to Al-Haris were Nadeem Akhtar, Ashraf Zaidi, Haji Jalal and Nadeem Ayoubi. Another lady, Noori Begum, said her house was occupied by the sector boys and remained in their possession for two months. They also looted the Jehaz of her two grand-daughters. They said it was the punishment of revolting against Altaf Hussain.

The mother of Shoaib, the missing dissident, said the boys were threatening them with dire consequences. "They still say the army is here only for six months. We'll see you after wards".

Zahida Anwar, a Karachi University student, articulated the atmosphere of terror which has prevailed in the area since June last year, and apprehended that after the departure of the army their troubles may again come back. The mother of another murdered boy asked one of the army officials, "you tell me, does an 11-year-old have any sense of politics? Altaf butcher made 10 year-olds play politics, and mercilessly butchered them when they opposed his barbarism."

Syed Mahmood Hussain Hashmi, a former MNA and chairman of ZMC East, later told the newsmen that the dissidents wanted their civil and political rights, but Altaf had become god and wanted no one to oppose what he had not willed.

'Khail' devoured several youths

F.P. Bureau Report

KARACHI, June 24: The beautifully laid out sector office of Mohajir Khail in Landhi-2, which carries the aspect of a country bungalow and contains a torture cell equipped with knives, chains, mechanical thread-drillers and electric drills besides ready-to-use execution nooses, was called 'White House' by MQM activists, said Mohammad Rashid Khan.

Rashid Khan, who is the younger brother of rebel MPA, Mohammad Younus Khan, said things were shifted around in the torture hall every two or three days to wipe out blood stains and other torture marks. Rashid was tortured here on the night of June 17, 1991. The night when an ISI Major, Kalim, was also tortured and humiliated along with other army personnel named Mohiyuddin, Nisar and Yasin.

Rashid alleged that he was whipped by provincial MQM minister, Safdar Baqri, in person.

About the ISI major and his companions, Rashid said their heads were split open and they were bleeding all over. However, when asked more specific questions about the torture of army personnel. An army officer present on the occasion diverted the newsmen's attention.

Rashid described the modes of torture which included drilling holes into victims bones, hanging the victims from the ceiling till they were half-dead. Some of the victims of Mohajir Khail as named by Rashid included Shoaib, Haider, Arshad and his father, Faisal, Sohail and Yousuf etc. Shoaib, Arshad's father and Yousuf are still missing while the bodies of Faisal and Arshad were later found.

Those who perpetrated horrors on the so-called traitors in Mohajir Khail included former MPA Ashfaq Chief, Amir Siddiqui, Sitara, Rehan Zaidi, Javed Kazmi and others besides Salim Shehzad, Safdar Baqri and Dr. Imran Farooq, said Rashid, adding that he saw the last mentioned three MQM leaders the night he was brought here. He said the army personnel were tortured by Salim

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Frontier Post

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24, 1992 ZILHAJ 22, 1412

LAHORE

NATIONAL DAILY FROM

3 arrested: arms & ammunition recovered MQM torture cell unearthed in Kotri

F.P. Bureau Report

HYDERABAD, June 23: At least three persons were arrested following a raid on the office of the MQM and unearthing of "a torture cell" in the joint action of the law-enforcing agencies and police in Kotri on Tuesday.

According to the official sources, the law-enforcing agencies received an anonymous telephone call providing information about a clash between the activists

of two groups of the MQM at the office of the MQM in Amir Complex, Kotri.

Following this telephone call, the military and the rangers gathered near the said complex, where the police of the area also reached. The raid was conducted jointly by the troops and police under the supervision of a magistrate.

A 7mm rifle was recovered from the office. The official

sources said that, in the meantime, police and troops also got more telephone calls about the presence of terrorists in different houses of the town.

Following this information, raids were conducted on some houses and a body-building club, which was said to be used as torture cell. The law-enforcing agencies recovered two rifles, one single-barrel gun, one dagger, 52 rounds and 8 cartridges from

some other places. Three persons were also picked up by the police and troops on suspicion of involvement in anti-social activities. "The arrested suspects are being interrogated by the police. If they were found innocent, they would be let off", added the official.

About the unearthed torture cell, the official said it was apparently a body building club, "but you can call it a torture cell, because it might be used as a torture cell. When he was asked about the curfew-like situation in Kotri, he replied that the said office of the MQM was situated on the main highway, so it was found necessary to divert the traffic from the said road to other routes to avoid any rush in the area. He said the traffic on this road had been closed for about two and a half hours for the security purposes. He added that after the raids all roads to Kotri were opened.

Earlier, an undeclared curfew was imposed upon Kotri town during the operation.

Meanwhile, the checking and patrolling by the law-enforcing agencies were highly intensified today in and around Hyderabad City and Kotri Town. The joint teams of police, rangers and military were conducting the search of persons and vehicles on Super Highway, Kotri Barrage and Bridge, Qasim Chowk and other parts of Hyderabad Town. The personnel of the agencies were also taking the body search of individuals at many places. During the checking, large queues of vehicles were seen at Jamshori Phatak, Kotri Barrage and Jamshori-Kotri-Hyderabad Chowk near Toll Plaza on Super Highway.

One dacoit, a Lance Naik killed in encounter

From Our Correspondent

DADU, June 23: A dacoit and a jawan of law-enforcing agency were killed in an encounter between the dacoits and law-enforcing agency in Dadu district on Monday night.

Later, the law-enforcing agencies arrested 11 villagers from two villages of the district on the charges of harbouring the criminals.

According to details, following a tip of information, the law-enforcing agencies surrounded a gang of dacoits hidden near Sita Road village of Dadu district. A clash took place between the law enforcing agencies and the dacoits, in which a dacoit Asghar alias Dhagi Palipoto was killed in the encounter. A Lance Naik Mehboob Ali of the said agency was also killed in the encounter. The other dacoits fled away from the scene.

After the said encounter, the law-enforcing agencies raided nearby village "Soof Machchi". The personnel of law-enforcing agency conducted house-to-house search in the village and arrested ten villagers on the charges of providing shelter to the criminals and anti-social elements.

On the same night, another party of law-enforcing agencies, raided village Dadu Dero in Taluka Mehar of Dadu district. The agencies rounded up a vil-

Karachi shoot-out kills 1

KARACHI, June 23, (AFP): Four hooded gunmen opened fire from car killing one man and injuring two in indiscriminate shooting in the industrial western district of Karachi on Tuesday, police said.

The four attackers escaped after the shooting, which created panic in the township of Baldia, they said.

The incident came amid heavy presence of troops and rangers in Karachi as part of an ongoing army operation in southern Sindh province against bandits, terrorists, saboteurs and anti-social elements.

Meanwhile, the security forces, which moved in here last week after violence between rival groups of the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), continued a search for illegal weapons on Tuesday.

The infighting in MQM, a party of Urdu-speaking descendants of migrants from India in 1947, left at least nine dead and 30 injured.

On Monday, the authorities reportedly seized 66 rifles, shotguns and machine guns and more than 20,000 rounds of ammunition during raids on various MQM offices.

FIRs against Altaf, Farooq, Baqri lodged

F.P. Bureau Report

KARACHI, June 23: The MQM top brass including Altaf Hussain, Dr. Imran Farooq, Safdar Baqri, and MQM labour leader of Pakistan Steel Mills Mr. Khalid Murtaza have been charged with murder, kidnapping and extortion.

FIRs have been registered with Landhi and Orangi police stations, during past 24 hours, but no arrests have been reported till Tuesday evening.

A Police official at Landhi police station told *The Frontier Post* that they have not arrested any persons so far, nominated in the FIRs, but commented "there is a lot of time for us, till 12

MNA, and Safdar Baqi, provincial minister, by Mohammad Shahid of Landhi, accusing them of killing his brother and kidnapping his father.

Another FIR No. 108/92, has been reportedly lodged against Dr. Imran Farooq, leader of the parliamentary party in the National Assembly, Salim Shahzad and Ashfaq chief by Mumtaz Begum. She, in the FIR, has stated that all of them allegedly kidnapped her son Shoibullah and two others Irshad and Rasheed.

Meanwhile, Orangi police station has also reportedly lodged an FIR on the report of Mohammad Usman, who has alleged that Salim Shahzad and other kidnapped him over a dispute of a

DAWN

Karachi, Tuesday, June 23, 1992

Rangers raid Abbasi Hospital

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, June 22: Rangers conducted a raid on Abbasi Shaheed Hospital on Monday night to recover illegal arms and ammunition, if any.

About 20 truckloads of Rangers arrived at the hospital at 10 p.m. They searched each and every room of the hospital, including some medical stores in its vicinity.

Some of the locked storerooms were broken open by the Rangers.

Two Jawans of Rangers were posted at the telephone exchange of the hospital and during the two-hour search, work in the telephone exchange remained suspended.

Doctors told *Dawn* that two patients expired at the hospital because of the non-availability of immediate medical assistance to them during the raid. However, they refused to disclose the names of the patients.

Some of the doctors also alleged harassment and maltreatment by the Rangers.

Officers of the Rangers were not available to give the detail of the raid.

City calm, 7 more MQM men held

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, June 22: The city remained peaceful on Monday, with no untoward incident being reported, except the arrest of seven more MQM activists.

On Monday, the Rangers continued raids in curfew-bound areas to arrest suspected "terrorists and anti-social elements."

The Rangers, it is learnt, after unearthing several torture cells, during the last three days, are now trying to dig out mass graves of political opponents in and around the torture cells.

The search is being launched following tip to this effect by a number of people living near the torture cells.

The Rangers are likely to begin their search on Tuesday with the demolition of Mohajir Khel in the Lines Area, one of the most infamous torture cells unearthed by the Rangers. MQM dissidents claim that some 40 people were tortured to death in this cell.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition and stolen vehicles recovered by the members of law enforcement agencies during the last three days were put on display for newsmen here on Monday.

Most arms recovered on Sunday were old, rusted and locally made. Half of some 20,000 bullets seized were believed to be manufactured by the Ordnance Factory, Wah.

Briefing the newsmen about the recovery of arms and ammunition and stolen cars, Brig Asif Haroon of ISPR said these were recovered from various parts of the city during Operation Clean-up.

About 34 stolen vehicles, included a Toyota Land Cruiser and a Pajero.

Meanwhile, the Karachi Police in its clean-up drive against anti-social elements has so far arrested 523 persons of them 23 were nabbed by the police during the last 48 hours.

The break-down of 523 arrested persons is: 297 proclaimed offen-

"And cover not Truth with Falsehood nor conceal the Truth when ye Know." Al-Quran

The Frontier Post

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Whom do the torture cells indict?

Twenty torture cells discovered so far in Karachi do not indict MQM as much as the successive rulers in Islamabad and their handpicked governments in Sindh. The people of Karachi feel liberated also because they don't have to pay ransom for being alive and for plying their trade. The money accumulated through extortion enabled MQM to become an armed organisation with all resources at its beck and call, including the bureaucratic establishment that got rich under the shadow of MQM's illegality. Mr Altaf Hussain, who is living well with this money in Britain may protest himself hoarse, but the truth of the matter is that his organisation was founded on fear and extortion. Because of the government's cooperation with it, the MQM style became fashionable all over Pakistan. Without any exaggeration, the verbal aggression that issues from the mouth of the politician is of fascist origin. There are others like Tahir-ul-Qadiri who tried it but couldn't pull it off; but one organisation in Punjab has successfully tried the MQM model and the government is responding in the same Pavlovian reflex. The Marwat-Jam Sadiq combination in Sindh not only took the MQM to its heart to crucify the PPP, but also adopted its political methodology. The press was brutalised by the MQM and Jam because the latter refused to come to the defence of humiliated editors and wounded reporters.

General Zia got the non-democratic forces together to postpone the day of his reckoning, and MQM was born from this policy. When the PPP took on the IJI after

1988, the MQM was an ally of the latter. When President Ghulam Ishaq Khan took on the PPP, he took MQM on board with the help of his son-in-law Marwat who looked after 'home' and was privy to what the MQM was doing to the society of Sindh as recompense for what it was doing for the centre. Jam Sadiq was lionised by both IJI and the President because he was doing for his own ends what the centre wanted him to do. After the 1990 elections, Altaf Hussain tortured whomever he liked, got newspapers to close down and then got their editor to come to him and apologise. (In the case of one newspaper, the staff was thrashed, then the editors were called to Azizabad and made to bow before the Great Leader, the picture of which humiliation was published above the mast of the newspaper for weeks, and 30 photographs of Altaf Hussain were carried each day as punishment!) In 1990, the Punjab government, aping the MQM, roughed up the journalists in Lahore, firing Kalashnikovs over their heads. Decent politicians like Mr Ghulam Haider Wyne adopted the language of Jam Sadiq while talking of the opposition. The centre may think that it will escape the consequences of nurturing the crime of MQM. But the virus has gone too deep for anyone to escape punishment. MQM's contribution is that it has turned the heads of all politicians in power and rendered them unfit for democracy. The MQM is now in the minds of our rulers. Rooting out fascism from Karachi and Jhang will be a difficult task for those who are themselves infected with it.

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Cable DAWN, KARACHI

Karachi's violent Friday

CURFEW has returned to Karachi after nearly two years and under circumstances perhaps more ominous and potentially more dangerous than any in the past. While most of the earlier incidents of violence leading to the imposition of curfew were triggered by sniper firing, the scenario this time — the one that started unfolding from early morning Friday — was vastly different and fearsome in that the combatants were as clearly identifiable as their motivation was patent. At least eight persons were killed and many more were injured in the violent clashes between the militants of the MQM and its dissident faction, with the latter making a determined bid to capture many of the zonal and sector offices of the former. In the ensuing encounters which took the form of a day-long running battle, both sides used sophisticated weapons. The intensity of fighting was particularly fierce in districts East and Central known to be MQM strongholds. To prevent further strife and violence and loss of life and property, large parts of the city have been placed under indefinite curfew and contingents of the army and the Rangers, besides the police, have been deployed to keep peace and prevent any untoward incidents.

That tension between the MQM and its dissidents had been going on for some time was known, but what is baffling is the daring shown by the rival faction in mounting what looked like a lightning operation to take over the organisational infrastructure of the MQM and that too at a time when the troops and the Rangers had a strong presence in different parts of the city and at strategic points — to do patrolling and to prevent any major outbreak of violence and disorder. An element of planning and coordination was also clearly discernible in the manner in which the take-over bid was carried out: simultaneous attacks on several MQM offices and houses of its stalwarts, the well-arranged Press conference held at the Liaqutabad office of the MQM after it was captured and so on. It was perhaps this factor and the extraordinary boldness shown by the rival group that

prompted MQM chief Altaf Hussain to charge in his statement from London that Friday's attacks were part of a wider "conspiracy" to eliminate the MQM. In an atmosphere overlaid with layers of animus, distrust and suspicions of all sorts such as the one that prevails at the moment, it is difficult to decide what credence to ascribe to certain claims and allegations. But then once the dust and fury kicked up by a particular development of unnerving proportions have settled, the truth of why and how it happened cannot but be the sole focus of public interest.

Indeed, this must also be the supreme concern of those currently engaged in carrying out an enormously challenging and delicate clean-up operation in Sindh, including Karachi. Any lingering impression of partisanship or lack of evenhandedness on the part of the agencies involved in this operation can only raise uncomfortable questions as to the conduct and purpose of the on-going drive against criminals, subversives and terrorists. At any rate, now that one of Karachi's flash-points of trouble has produced its blazing flames, the process of defusing it must be thorough and complete — and most of all, scrupulously honest and impartial. Scores of troublemakers from both sides have been arrested and more are likely to be taken into custody to prevent any recurrence of what happened on Friday. What is more important, however, is to disarm the militants of both sides in order that as and when the present curfew restrictions are relaxed, the peace and order in the city are not exposed again to the dangers of a fresh outburst of factional violence. In fact, the disarming process should form part of a wider drive to mop up all illegally held arms and hidden arsenals in the city and in the province. As for the violent rivalry between the MQM and its dissidents, since the issue has strong political overtones, it has to be tackled with the utmost care and discretion, for even the slightest hint of partiality or collusion can call the handling of the matter into serious question and alienate a large section of opinion in the city and elsewhere.

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Vol. XLVI No. 169 Karachi, Zilhaj 22, 1412 Wednesday, June 24, 1992 20 PAGES Rs. 4.50

'Rape cells unearthed in hospitals

By Our Staff Reporter

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The raids were conducted on the complaints of some women who were forcefully brought to the cells because of political differences and were allegedly gang-raped by MQM activists.

The cells were set up in the stair-ways of the hospitals and were allegedly run by some MQM activists. An X-Ray technician was allegedly supervising the cells and has been arrested.

An army interrogation team is recording the statements of women who were dishonoured in these cells.

Meanwhile, the law enforcement agencies raided the MQM Labour Wing in Al-Karam Square and unearthed two more torture cells set up in the ground floor offices.

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/MQM's biggest chamber of torture

By Ghulam Hasnain

KARACHI, June 24: Imagine a small deserted room — one of the 50 similar rooms — full of dust. Imagine a person walking through the dust and mistakenly kicking up a lump on the floor, scaring away a bunch of ants, and imagine picking up that thing out of curiosity and finding out to his horror that it was a chopped off nose of a human being who had recently been there.

I wish I had not been there. It has been almost 12 hours since I visited this torture house and I am still feeling sick in the stomach.

And I am not alone, for my feeling was shared by the newsmen and photographers who visited the infamous and one of the worst and biggest torture houses of the city in Landhi on Wednesday.

Commonly known as "Chaowani", the torture chamber was once the hostel of a technical institute and later abandoned. It was converted into a private jail and torture cell by the MQM to punish political opponents.

As one enters this complex, one finds a huge steel structure, 40 feet long, 12 feet wide and 12 feet high, erected in the centre of the compound. Five nooses of nylon and other ropes were hanging from the roof structure. Alongside the structure were scattered iron bars, metallic chains and gadgets used

for torture.

One side of the cell was reserved for shooting. One of the nearby walls has a warning written on it, asking the guards to use silencers during practice.

At the far end, there was open space surrounded by small bushes and plants. In the middle was a huge tree with an old noose hanging on it. The noose was blood stained and some particles of what obviously was human skin.

Though the rooms were dusty and dirty, the prisoners left some signs of their miserable existence on the walls. In some of the rooms, phone numbers were scratched on the walls with the help of stones, charcoal and nails. The prisoners probably wrote these in the hope that if they died, some one else who escaped from the cell might convey information to their families.

Some of the rooms have blood stains. About half a dozen women and some boys who had noticed a huge convoy of military vehicles coming outside the Chaowani came up at the cell to tell of their horrifying ordeals to journalists.

Prior to arriving at Chaowani, the newsmen were taken to the MQM sector office in Landhi to show a torture cell set up in one of

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MQM's biggest chamber of torture

Continued from page 1

the rooms of the office.

Over 40 women of all ages were already present there when the convoy of newsmen and photographers reached there. It seems that all of them had gathered to mourn the death of their dear ones.

Rabia Begum whose young son, Mohammad Arshad, was shot dead last year, soon after his return from America along with MQM dissident leaders, was crying and screaming for help and justice. "We were not allowed to attend even the burial of Arshad and he was buried without any religious ceremonies or shroud."

Same is the case with Mrs Tahira, whose husband Haider Ali was kidnapped and later shot dead in front of an armoury shop in Saddar.

Another young lady whose husband Mohammad Yousuf is still missing was again and again requesting the army officials for the recovery of her husband.

A young man Jawed who was brutally tortured in the sector office, took me to a corner and showed me one of his testicles burnt during interrogation. Besides, his entire body had scars.

Besides Jawed, there were some other young men whose legs were damaged or broken during interrogation.

And there were scores of women who had lost their men during the last few months because of political differences.

As the women were disclosing their ordeals to the Press, a young girl, probably in her 20s, was quietly standing in the far-end of the room watching the aggrieved women surrounded by the media.

"Have you also lost someone?"

First she tried to avoid the question and then suddenly broke down." I came to enquire about the video cassette." Elaborating she said that her video film was made by the activists before she was dishonoured. "I heard that a number of video cassettes were recovered from White House (Landhi sector office)," she remarked.

As the conversation was going on a young man appeared and took the women with him to another room.

The torture cell set up in the sector office was full of various equipments used for torture. Drill machines, sulphuric acid, nails, metallic chains, hammers, scissors and other such gadgets including a steel structure where the prisoners were tied and given electric shocks.

The women and young men who came to the White House to brief the journalists, claimed that a secret force called as "Kharkar Force" was active in the MQM to punish the political opponents and those who were accused of violating party discipline.

It was an elite force of MQM and even the sector chiefs did not know who was in the Kharkar Force. The Force was directly operated by the Markaz and Dr Imran Farooq was in charge of it, they claimed.

One of the dissident leaders who told the Press that the White House was set up one and a half years ago was embarrassed when an old lady interrupted him during the speech and reminded him that she had been watching him there for the last four years. "My son was always seen with you, tell me where he is", the old lady said.

The scenes at the torture cells brought tears to the eyes of all, including journalists and army officials.

Raids on torture cells welcomed

F.P. Bureau Report

HYDERABAD — Syed Aalim Shah, senior vice president of Awami Tahrir has welcomed the successful raids and unearthing of a torture cell of ethnic terrorists and a huge dump of dangerous weapons in Karachi. He demanded that the campaign should continue till terrorism is completely eliminated from Sindh.

In a statement issued here Sunday, Aalim Shah recalled that the patriotic Sindhi people had been crying for the last two to three years that a heinous conspiracy had been hatched to torture Sindhis, Pathans and others in the torture cells set up in different cities of the province in order to enslave people of Sindh by ethnic terrorists.

He cautioned that with the capturing one torture cell it should not be assumed that the whole ethnic terrorism has been destroyed. He said, the fact was that thousands of such torture cells were operating in different areas of Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur, Nawabshah, Tando Adam and Tando Allahyar and even in some small towns where ethnic terrorists are in majority. He was confident that innumerable dumps of arms and ammunition would be found if operation against ethnic terrorist gangs was launched throughout Sindh with all seriousness and full responsibility. He said, hundreds of innocent Sindhis were killed in torture cells and armed attacks in Pucca Qila, Latifabad, Hyderabad and Karachi. Their only fault was that they loved their homeland.

Torture cells unearthed

KARACHI (APP) — All the huge iron gates in the Lines Area have been opened by the supporters of the MQM dissidents after the Friday's armed encounter.

This was stated by Lieutenant Colonel Safdar of Pakistan Rangers who was briefing newsmen here on Sunday afternoon. A team of journalists was taken around the Lines Area, and Azizabad by the ISPR department.

He said that these iron gates were posing a great threat to the lives and security of the innocent people of the area.

He said some torture cells had also been unearthed in the areas which were said to be run by the terrorists for torturing their opponents.

The team was taken one of these 'torture cells', a ransacked house, with different items including broken glasses littered here and there.

In a room were hanging nylon ropes from its ceiling and said to be used for hanging the opponents.

A large number of people had gathered there, and told reporters that they had come to see for themselves after hearing about the torture cells.

Some of them told harrowing tales of torture allegedly meted out to them or their near and dear ones.

The people said that they were taking a sigh of relief after these torture cells had been recovered and taken over by members of the law enforcement agencies.

Abbasi Shaheed Hospital — den of MQM terrorists

F.P. Bureau Report

KARACHI — A thorough investigation has been ordered by an agency following the startling confessions made by an arrested RMO of Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, Karachi. The place known as "rest bed" for MQM chief Altaf Hussain during the days of his mysterious ailment.

According to sources, Dr. Javed Ahmed, who was arrested few days back by a sensitive agency operating in the city, has confessed about crimes by MQM men in hospital premises.

Dr. Javed, disclosure reveals that when migrated to Pakistan in 1973, he was posted as RMO in Abbasi Shaheed Hospital under the recommendation of Dr. Farooq Sattar, some eight months ago.

During interrogation, he confessed that different security guards posted in hospital were the activists of APMSO, MQM and those who have already left the country, including Murtaza, Salim Alvi, Salim, Minhaj, Anwar Hussain and others. He said that medical superintendent of the hospital Waqar Kazmi has also fled from

the country.

He gave his confessional statement before agency and said that the control of power were in the hands of MQM "Markaz 90" and they did obey what ordered to them.

He said that Waqar Kazmi's guards were fully equipped and authorised to complete their all jobs including to torture the innocent. "The torture room was selected opposite to the room of security guards and we were denied to go there," he said.

He said that although ASH was named as hospital but it was a den of MQM terrorists. "There was no entry of any dead boy, brought by MQM, even all such orders for any medicolegal certificate (MLC) were being issued by Markaz-90." He disclosed that some 25-26 days ago a youngster was also killed by MQM men and buried somewhere after the orders of markaz.

"I know that there was a lot of ammunition of different kinds in the offices and also in the room selected for the security guards. The water tanks and rooms of different doctors were turned into sanctuaries against any raid." He

further said that the MS of the hospital, Kazmi compelled several doctors to leave who did not comply with the MQM orders. He, in this regard mentioned Dr. Zaka and Dr. Altaf Molvi.

The interrogation team also found other facts of highhandedness of MQM men, specially the 'character' of MQM chief Altaf Hussain. According to Dr. Javed, "the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital was best for MQM chief Altaf Hussain. He used to be admitted in his VIP suite, with apparant reason of ailment but the fact was that he used to meet different girls there to get rid of fears and disparations. Unmasking the character of Altaf Hussain, Dr. Javed said, "chief was afraid of different people, who threatened to kill him. He did not trust his own guards. Whenever, he became frustrated then he enjoyed meetings with young girls particularly after 2 am. He alleged that "MQM women wing was best device to trap the girls, who did not wish to meet Hussain." But, "it was fact that Zareen Majid allegedly freed him from frustration

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Abbasi Shaheed

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through such meetings.

He also confessed that the drivers of hospital ambulances were used to transport the weapons from one place to another. The drivers identified as: Rasheed, Ibrahim, Allah Bux and Ghulam Rasool Mohajir. All the security guards, who were trained terrorists, have been posted in the hospital and they had to have wear a symbolic "red" cap for carrying operation conveniently in the presence of MQM leaders. He said that the 'VIP suite' for Altaf Hussain was situated on right side of lift of the hospital.

THREE DAYS WAR OF TERRORISM

BETWEEN

ANTI-JAM MQM GROUP & PRO-JAM MQM GROUP

CAPTURING AND RE-CAPTURING OF MUHAJIR KHEL IN LANDHI EXPOSED THE TERRORISTS

THREE DAYS war of terrorism in Landhi Area Karachi within the MQM Groups have left no doubt that MQM is now divided into two groups One Group is "Anti Jam MQM Group" headed by Afaq Ahmad Khan and Aamir Khan while the other group is Pro-Jam Group which is headed by Altaf Hussain on papers but practically by Saleem Shahzad. Thousands of activists/terrorists participated in this war and used Light Machine Guns along with other Modern automatic weapons. At least 50 persons were injured and 5 were killed but the police officials and the officials belonging to Rangers remained spectators in this war of terrorism. The war ended by the intervention of certain persons of the Armed Forces and due to some important political personalities, however the process of killing and injuring the opponents still continues. This war of terrorism was not un-expected after the return of Mr. Afaq Ahmad and Aamir Khan from America and it had become evident for everyone after the banners were demonstrated in every area of Karachi that the entry of opponents of Quid (means Altaf) is banned and the fate of the opponents would be death. MUHAJIIR KHEL OF LANDHI : There are several CELLS of Terrorism in Karachi established by the MQM and they are known as "Muhajir Khels" Muhajir Khels in Landhi is situated in Landhi No. 2 in a mohallah consisting

of few houses. The streets surrounding the Central Part of the Muhajir Khel are closed by iron gates and these streets are considered to be the part of Muhajir Khel. The Muhajir Khel Landhi consists of about 25 streets and the central part, consisting of few houses, is declared as the "head-quarter" of the terrorism where weapons are stored; some rooms are made as prisons; some rooms are used for torture; some rooms are used by the guards. Armed terrorist



protect the head-quarter. The Muhajir Khel of Landhi is surrounded by the sympathisers of Afaq Ahmad Khan and the Pro-Jam MQM Group was aware of the fact that Anti-Jam group headed by Afaq Ahmad and Aamir Khan would make this area as their centre. To avoid their entry in this area special arrangements were made on Air-Port, Railway-Stations and Bus-routs. Rumours of their entry in Karachi made the Pro-Jam Group of MQM upset. Altaf Hussain took refuge in the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital under the pretext of some disease while the house of Afaq

Ahmad was attacked thrice as a show of force. Inspite of all these arrangements Mr. Afaq Ahmad and Aamir Khan entered Karachi. However it is still mystry under whose patronage they reached their destination in Landhi on 17th june and collected their supporters at some un-known place at about 2200 hours on 17th June 1991 till 0600 hours on 18th of June 1991. At about 0900 hours, on 18th June 1991 they attacked the said Muhajier Khel



and captured the same without any mentionable resistance. According to some reliable sources, more than 300 trained terrorists of Pro-Jam group of MQM had left for Lahore and Islamabad in search of these leaders of Anti-Jam MQM Group before the attack on and capture of the Muhajir Khel and perhaps, due to this reason, there was no resistance. However the news of "Capturing the Landhi Muhajir Khel" by the supporters of Afaq and Aamir became a shock and a deadly blow for Altaf Hussain and Saleem Shahzad as well as for Jam Sadiq Ali (in other

words for the ruling group of Sindh) and it became a cause of 3 days war of terrorism in Landhi Area from 18th June to 20th June of 1991 for the poor people who ultimately became the prey of this terrorism on account of their innocent faults of being peaceful empty handed patriotic citizens of Pakistan. According to the reliable sources about 15/20 persons were in the Khel who were made the hostages by Anti Jam MQM Group. The Sector Incharge namely Kazmi was unaware of this situation till he reached the Khel. He was also made hostage. It is alleged that he was tortured in the Khel by the Anti-Jam MQM Group because there were allegations against him for kidnapping, torturing and injuring the supporters of Anti-Jam Group in the MQM.

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE ANTI - JAM MQM GROUP AGAINST JAM SADIQ ALI

At about 1700 hours, the people from the press reached the Landhi Muhajir Khel and the press conference started at about 1800 hours. The whole area was under the control of Anti-Jam MQM Group. Three MPA's of Sindh Assembly namely Naeem Akhtar, Iqbal Qureshi and Younis Khan were present in the Press Conference. It was alleged in the Press Conference that Jam Sadiq Ali was working for Sindhu-Desh, an independent Country for the Sindhis and therefore G.M. Syed always